

December 7, 2010

Today I am at the home of Larry and Lyle Knight (2653 South 500 South). With us is Carol Hatch, the daughter of Earl Massey who was the son of Arthur Massey. We also have Lyle Massey Knight, who is the daughter of Arthur Massey. My name is Ellen Kiever and I am glad to be hearing some of the history of the Dry Fork Area and the Massey Meadows according to Carol and Lyle.

Ellen: First, Lyle tells me why your parents name you Lyle?

Lyle: Daddy didn't want a boy. He just liked the name Lyle. It had nothing to do with anything and it's the neatest name around.

Ellen: This morning I commented to Terry about coming to your home today. He asked how you might have got the name Lyle. I told him I would ask. So Carol would you like to start with some of the thoughts you have?

Carol: Well, I have information that Ira Massey, who was a brother to Scotty (Arthur) was that he is the original homesteader in about 1912. Then Arthur took over the homestead about 1914. I am not sure why Ira gave it up but evidently he had bigger fish to fry. The original saw mill was/is now as Massey Meadows but it was more over towards where they have the nature hike now. It was a steam driven engine and then that went away in about 1935 or 1936. And our Uncle Everett and Uncle Sewell Massey, who were brothers to Arthur as well, they partner shipped until about 1938 and I think it was on the steam sawmill. I am not real positive cause the dates don't quite jive. Then Arthur took over the sawmill and added a truck motor and moved it to the center of Massey Meadows. To us it was known as the sawmill sight.

Ellen: Was the flume to this sawmill?

Carol: No. It had no...it was long gone. It had no part in that at all.

Lyle: The reason that Daddy went ahead and proved up the homestead was because Uncle Ira's wife and Ida didn't like it up there. She was from Arizona so Uncle Ira said, "Arthur, if you'll finish proving up this homestead you can have it."

Carol: Anyway, I wrote down that Arthur built most of the roads up there to Horseshoe [Park] and from the cave past the flume trail. He had an old bridge that he could drive his truck across.

Ellen: Is that bridge still standing?

Carol: No. They since have dismantled it. Now they have those fancy walkover bridges. But when we were children, he was farming over there across the creek.

There is an area very close to there that had been cleared and he farmed that as well as all the land on the ranch, well not all of the land but some of the land on the ranch. And then he also farmed, he had at least another patch of ground right where you turn off from Brownies to come up, off to the left there now it is full of sagebrush, but my husband [Doug Hatch] was the last one to ever plow that with a team. It was the last time that it was ever planted. I don't remember what the crop was but...

Lyle: I don't either but it was called Brownies field. He actually irrigated it, Dad did.

Ellen: Out of the Brownie Creek?

Lyle: No,

Carol: No it would have had to have been out of Dry Fork Creek.

Lyle: I don't know how he did it.

Ellen: But Dry Fork Creek doesn't have water all year round.

Carol: No, but it did then.

Lyle: It did then.

Ellen: So what years are we talking about here?

Carol: That would take us up into the fifties. I know to that the Massey Cave was discovered by my father, Earl. And we have varying stories on that. I thought he told me he was herding sheep and fell over the ledge and landed right in front of it but for several years we used to store potatoes in and root vegetables to see if they would hold all winter. Then I don't know how many years went by and somebody, I think it was part of the family, got in there digging around and opened up another whole new part of the cave. We used to have to get on our bellies and squiggle like worms to get into the rest of the cave but after they opened that up then we could walk in, just bent over.

Ellen: Did you find Indian relics or anything like that?

Carol: Oh no, no. There were several stalactites and stalagmites that people have vandalized up there. They're long gone.

Lyle: No. They are still there.

Carol: The stalactites and stalagmites?

Lyle: Oh yes, they're just broken off. And the story we were always told was that and what they said at the time that a Mexican sheepherder went in there and broke them off and took em' out. They're still there. We don't know now whether that was a true story or not, but yes, they were broken off. Yes, they're still there and they're still growing.

Ellen: He thought they were worth some money or something?

Carol: I haven't been in that cave, well she goes almost every summer, but the last time I went in I was bothered so much with hay fever and I turned right around and left.

Lyle: Now what they have done, a lot of people that go in it and they sleep in there and they break bottles on the side so there are bad things. One place when we go in, we have to go on our elbows and stomachs to get into the Clay Room and so with those broken bottles you have to be really careful pulling inside yourself so you don't get cut. Now they have graffitied it up.

Ellen: That is so sad. Is this considered private property?

Lyle: No!!!

Carol: No, what they should have done is protected it like they did Whiterocks Cave. The Forest Service should have protected it but probably by the time they even realized it was there it was probably already vandalized, would be my best guess.

Lyle: There weren't a lot of people that went in it. We went in with pitch pine torches. Glen, my brother, would take a rag and soak it up with sometimes gasoline and then light it up and then we had light in there.

Carol: It was always great fun if my daddy could beat everyone there and get in first and then scare em' cause he could sound just like a bear. Carol giggles. So that was great sport for the little kids.

Lyle: Did you want to know that Daddy was a bootlegger?

Ellen: I want to know anything you want to tell me.

Lyle: Oh! Well Daddy was a bootlegger and as we were growing up, we didn't know he was a bootlegger. It was the older kids, June and Earl, that came from his first wife that he made his hooch and people say that it was really good. But we never knew about it. I have a picture of him with his still somewhere, carrying it out through the field. We never knew.

Ellen: Tell me a little about Uncle Arthur.

Lyle: He married Minnie Rowley and had June and Earl, eighteen months apart, and she died in childbirth. Later on he married mother, who was Marguerite Britt.

Ellen: Was she a sister to—

Lyle: All of em', Aunt Gladys, Aunt Marie, Aunt Helen, Uncle Lynn, Uncle Keith, Uncle George and Jennie Rhodes. Those were all Mother's brothers and sisters. Where Eula and that family come in, they are double second cousins. Uncle Johnny was Daddy's brother and Aunt Gladys was Mother's sister. So then he and mother had Ruth, she was stillborn, then Glen, then me, Lyle; Naomi, and Dawn, we called her Tiny.

Carol: She died while giving birth to Dawn.

Ellen: So he lost two wives while giving birth. So he never remarried?

Carol: No.

Ellen: So he raised you kids. You told me about that you always had a job.

Lyle: I did!

Ellen: Did you go to school here?

Lyle: huh huh!

Ellen: Graduated from Uintah?

Lyle: Yes.

Ellen: Was it Uintah High School or was it the Uintah Academy?

Lyle: Uintah High School.

Ellen: Was it the building on 600 West and 200 South?

Lyle: Yes. Everything went from 7 through 12 there. Because we couldn't go to school from up there, we came down and lived with different relatives. Daddy used to tell us that he was really glad that mother had died because it gave us a chance to know grandmother and our aunts and uncles and cousins. We knew that he didn't mean he was glad that mother had died, but it gave us opportunities to know our family. So then we lived with different ones of the family during school, as soon as school was out we went to the ranch and stayed.



Carol: Lyle and I have often commented that we had the very best upbringing in the world. We were like these little wild creatures in the summer and then in the winter these wonderful, in my case, great-aunts they were Lyle's aunts and our grandmother and great-grandmother would help raise us. They were absolutely the most wonderful women. I've thought have we just idealized em', weren't they pretty awesome?

Lyle: Welllllllll.

Carol: Just to take these kids and take care of em'.

Lyle: Yes they were.

Carol: In my case, my mother was gone too. And Winona Odle was one of those darlings.

Ellen: Was she an aunt?

Lyle: She was Uncle Millard, daddy' brother's, daughter.

Carol: She was a cousin to Lyle.

Ellen: I remember Teri Harrison calling her Aunt Winona.

Carol: Yes, she probably did.

Ellen: But I called Uncle Arthur, "Uncle Arthur" and he wasn't related to me.

Carol: Yes, it's kind of like a respectful thing, I think.

Ellen: Yes, he was just this sweet little man that used to come and have coffee with Phil and Lou [Harrison]. I just loved him. I had no idea who he tied in with but he was my Uncle Arthur. So Carol, you were Earl's daughter who was the son of Arthur so Lyle is your Aunt. Did your mother die early or divorce.

Carol: They were divorced.

Ellen: And you stayed with your dad.

Carol: Yeah. There were two of us and my mother took the younger girl and my dad took me. I think were three and two, maybe. I don't know why they did it, times were tough. They did what they had to do. So you went to the ranch in the summers.

Lyle: The day school was out.

Ellen: And came back...

Lyle: The day school started. Daddy raised, he had one year with Naomi and me and Daddy, he had seven acres of lettuce. We took care of all of it.

Ellen: What did you do with seven acres of lettuce?

Lyle: Well....the year before he had had about a fourth of an acre of lettuce. He made \$700 on that fourth of an acre, sold it in Vernal. So the next year, if I can make that much this year, next year I'll plan seven acres and he did. He had a little hand cultivator. He cultivated it, hand planted it, and then we thinned it, weeded it, watered it and harvested it. And it was a beautiful patch. There wasn't one weed in it. Another year he did that land in strawberries. He did it in potatoes.

Ellen: The whole seven acres in one crop.

Lyle: I don't remember that there were seven acres of strawberries, but there were a lot. But there were seven acres of lettuce. One year Naomi was probably, we figure fourteen but she might have been thirteen or fourteen when she was hit. My girlfriend was up there at the time and they were out weeding or actually they thinning the lettuce is what they were doing, on their hands and knees. Naomi leaned up to throw a dirt clod at Dona, you know playin' around, and there was one little cloud in the sky and a bolt of lightning came. And because of Naomi being raised up on her haunches, it hit her, the lightning did and burned the soil there where it hit. It didn't grow anything for years and years. It burned her wrist. She had on a Benrus watch and it never quit running. She had on a pair of Levi's that you rolled up to your knees. They had the rivets on. She had on a green and white polka-dot blouse of mine, all that was left of that was where it went around the collar and down the back cause it buttoned down the back. It shredded her pants like those cowgirl skirts that they used to do all that fringe. It did that. It took a lot of people to hold her down.

Carol: She was so full of electricity. She was just wild. As I remember she picked grandfather in one hand and a woman, I don't know who.

Lyle: Bobbie

Carol: In the other and just tossed em' across the cabin like they were match sticks. And by the time we got there, we were up at the sawmill site, they had her on the floor. I don't believe she was coherent yet.

Lyle: Daddy was hugging her. Daddy picked her right up in his arms and he said, "Don't leave me babe, don't leave me." And JD Massey came in and he said, "Get away from her, all of ya. You are suffocating her." He got people away and I don't remember whether he did artificial respiration or not but it was JD that saved her life.

Carol: Then they had to carry her across the raging creek. It was a lot higher then than it gets now. My grandfather, her dad was notorious for one log was the bridge. I remember standing there with my breath held. I remember thinking—there is no way they are going to get her across there without dumping her. I don't remember whether they had a stretcher, or they made a stretcher but there were two men and they walked those logs across two channels and got her over to where they could get her out to the hospital.

Lyle: And later on when she went down to John Jones, the Post Master, he was doing that writing class. He said everyone has one story in them. So she wrote that story about the lightning. When Daddy was saying to her don't leave me, don't leave me", mother was over here waiting for her to come. So when she wrote that story, she had all that down and she would have gone to mother but she could hear Daddy and he was crying, don't leave me, don't leave me so she wrote that story which was a priceless thing. She had to write it in the second or third person. That's how Mr. Jones wanted it. Then over the years she misplaced it someplace. Nobody has the original copy. I have what we just talked about. Another thing about the creek, the two creeks, one year Daddy said to us one morning he said, "Well girls, he said, "We won't be crossing the creek today. We're marooned." The water was that high. It had taken out both the bridges and it's so high we didn't dare put a horse in. That was fine with us. We didn't care if we never got out. Later on in the afternoon here come this man up from the creek saying, "Man, I f-o-r-g-e-d that river, I f-o-r-g-e-d that river." It was Ron Corless, a brother to Howard. He had stepped into the first creek and there was a strand of barbed fence. It washed him down to that fence and I guess he was drunk and he got across that one and the other one, I don't know if it had a fence or it just wasn't as high cause the first crossing is the highest in the water. It's not that way now, always but it was then. But he come over there saying, "Man, I forged that river," We wanted to say, "Ron that's not a river it's just a creek." We had horses. Daddy left them up on Sinks Ridge sometimes all winter. We never saw em' until the next spring when they came in.

Ellen: They always knew where to come.

Lyle: Pretty wild horses. I think Glen's Dusky was with them. He had a black horse.

Ellen: You said wild, they weren't broke?

Carol and Lyle: Not very much and then giggled.

Ellen: But did you try to ride them anyway.

Carol: Oh yes!! And then they both giggled some more.

Lyle: Anything that had four legs. We had really nice sheepherders up there. First of all we had Uncle Ern McLean, Aunt Marie's husband, and he herded for

Elmer Lind. We had Lou Robert's sheep up South Fork. We had Bennie Bennion, I don't know who Bennie Bennion herded for, but he was really a nice man and he herded up there. So you could go on to their sheep camp with Daddy and they would give you a mutton rib. They were good, a cold mutton rib out of a jar with thick grease on em'. They were really good.

And Carol is giggling in the background.

Lyle: No do you want to hear about Daddy's bandito ways?

Ellen: Yes, I want to hear everything.

Lyle: Well June said as we got older that he war, well what did she call him? She didn't call him a criminal but he took sheep. We kept the road cleaned out from Dry Fork on. We always figured that whole road was ours because we kept it up. The sheep would get rocks down in it and Daddy would clean it out and we would help him. So he would, this one day and the reason that we say Jennie Rhoades instead of Aunt Jennie is 'cause she didn't let us call her aunt even though she was mother's sister, she's the one that Tiny grew up with.

Ellen: So she was more your age?

Lyle: No. Jennie wasn't a nice person.

Ellen: Oh! Okay!

Lyle: As I've got older I decided that she had a drinking problem and it wasn't a pleasant one. Daddy had a drinking problem but he didn't pay any attention to it.

Carol: It was just when he was in town.

Carol and Lyle: more giggling

Lyle: He just didn't come home. Anyway, Jennie was in the truck with Daddy. Daddy always had broken down trucks. And Daddy saw this sheep right there that would have been Elmer Lind's, a big lamb that was ready to eat. So he just stopped the truck, got out, and caught it and put it between Jennie's legs on the floorboard of the truck. She had one of those big old straw hats that she wore in the summer and here came the sheepherder over to visit with Daddy. It wasn't Uncle Ern at that time, it was someone else. And Jennie just took that had off her head and put it on top of that sheep's head. I can't remember if Naomi and I were in the back of the truck or not. But it seems like we were. And they visited there about that. Later on, he didn't take many sheep but if he wanted a mutton then he would take one. He would say, "Well, I think they owe that to me." I helped with the road and they don't help me." So later on he took one from Bennie Bennion, well we loved Bennie Bennion. Daddy didn't like Elmer Lind. He did not. He liked Lou Roberts, I don't remember if he ever took a sheep from Lou

because his were up over Lake Mountain, but he took one from Bennie and I just cried and said, "But Daddy, he's our friend and he doesn't mess up our road." "Well, I'm sure there's been a rock out there sometime that he's let get in there."

Carol and Lyle giggle again

Lyle: "Crook" that's what June called him.

Ellen: Was there a particular reason why he didn't like Elmer Lind?

Lyle: He figured well actually I think it was because Uncle Ern said one time, "Sometime I'm going to butcher one of these old ewes and see if it has any parts except neck and rib." Because that is all Elmer Lind ever gave him to eat. He never had a steak or a roast. I don't think Elmer Lind was a bad guy. But Daddy thought he was really...

Ellen: I don't remember him real well.

Lyle: Well he had a really nice son. Rulon was a dear.

Ellen: I just loved his son-in-law, John and Mildred is pretty good all right too.

Lyle: I'm sure they all had their funny ways.

Ellen: So was JD a brother to...

Lyle: No. He belonged to Uncle Van. He had a big drinking problem.

Carol: There were so many Massey's in and out of the ranch for so many years. I have an idea that there were probably twenty or thirty that at one time or another were up there either working for Grandfather or just hanging out.

Lyle: Oh yeah!! They hung out.

Ellen: Well, if Uncle Arthur had a still up there.....

Carol: That's right. I hadn't thought of that.

Lyle: Edwin and his wife, Bobbie, were up there one summer, people sometimes thought that we needed someone to look after us, which we didn't, but anyway they were up there and Bobbie decided that at the old mill setting there was a cabin over on that side[northwest] that belonged to June and her first husband. And then Earl's and Betty were over where the outhouse is now. Then Bun Massey, that is Uncle Johnny's, he built a cabin up a little ways up the North Fork before you got to the creek. It was really fine in the summer but when the lumber

dried it had pretty good size cracks in it. He was there and I think he had Anna with him at the time. Do you remember them?

Ellen: I remember Anna, yes.

Lyle: Yes, sweet folks. When Daddy would go to town he would drink and he was gonna come back tomorrow and that might be a week later. One never knew when he would be back. We knew when the creek was just low enough that we wouldn't get drowned. We could go in it and float down and stuff, Naomi and I could. So we never had any trouble so I think he must have taught us when the creek is too high don't get in it. This time he had been to town and had brought me with him and Naomi and Glen stayed up there and he had pigs that year. He had a really nice barn. Jennie and George came up and of course, they had to always think they were our bosses. Well, this time they came, the night before, there were some bees in the barn and Glen decided to get a pitch pine torch and smoke em' out, which they did but he didn't realize that part of that would fall off in the straw and so in the night and caught fire and burned up all the pigs and the barn, I don't remember what else. When Daddy came back, people thought he would really be upset with Naomi and Glen,

Carol: Well, they hid out.

Lyle: Oh yeah.

Carol: They ran way up on top...

Lyle: That was to get away from Jennie, George and Bud. No they weren't afraid of Daddy. Jennie and George had come up and George and Jennie had a son named Bud and a daughter named Lawanna. Bud had long legs and Glen told Naomi that you really run fast up this mountain because you know how long Bud Rhodes' legs are. So they got up on there waiting for Daddy to come home. Well later on someone said to Daddy, "Did you really give em' a chewing out?" Glen and Naomi and he said, "No, I never liked pigs." He didn't care, he didn't care.

Carol: He never liked pigs anyway.

Lyle: Tell her about the time that you and Doug got lost.

Carol: Oh, gosh! It was Halloween night 1964 and we had gone up to the ranch to go horseback riding. It had been years since I had been up on Lake Mountain and then over on what we called Middle Mountain and then down off on an old trail that would eventually meet up with this old road that Grandfather had made very close to the flume trail what is left of it or the flume itself. And so off we went and Doug was riding a mare that had a full grown colt on her, still nursing. I don't even remember what I was riding, I'm sure they were work horses. Anyway, we got up on top of Lake Mountain and it was beautiful and you know fall. We spent

too much time playing around up there and so I was having difficulty finding Middle Mountain and the trail off of it once I did find Middle Mountain and it got dark. So we couldn't see anything. The horses, they just wanted to go home and finally Doug had me hold the horses and he said, "I'm going to see if I can find the trail." We kept calling to each other so we wouldn't get lost. When he came back he had been on his hands and knees cause he couldn't see and there was tons of down timber in there and he reached out with his hand and just went off into space and he was able to hold himself back. He threw a pebble and he said that it took a long time for it to reach the bottom. So he came back and we didn't know what to do. Finally I said, "Let's just turn the horses loose and we'll hold onto their tails." Well that worked for a while. Finally the mare got so tired of him holding on to her tail and the colt was just all around us and making a fuss and Doug said that he felt that hoof just wizz by his face and she broke loose and so the horse I was holding on to broke loose and we could hear em' crashin' down through the timber. And we were trying to keep up with em' as best we could.

Ellen: You didn't know where you were.

Carol: No! There was just down timber everywhere. The only way we could tell when we got to this ol' logging road is that I could feel the ruts. I knew the area and knew that there should be a road there so then we held hands and walking down the road and walked right into a tree. I've never seen such a black night and Halloween it was appropriate. And then we got to the field that we used to farm or that Grandpa used to farm and I told Doug I said, "I know we can take a short cut here and we can head those horses off at the bridge. Then we'll get em' up and we can ride on into the ranch. So bless his heart, he took off on a run I don't know how he dared, but I just pointed him in direction and he got there before the horses. They had to go around and by the time they got there he was waiting for em'. We went on into the ranch and by then it was probably midnight. Grandpa was in bed. I said, "Grandpa, weren't you worried about us?" He said, "No, I knew if you didn't come in tonight you'd come in in the morning."

Lyle: I just love that. That reminds me, when I was telling you about the old mill a few minutes ago, I lost my thread of thought which is really easy for me, I was going to tell you the one summer we lived up there and we stayed in June and Bill's cabin and the reason that we did when Daddy had gone to town, we had an icebox in the cabin. The cabin was 14 ft. by 14 ft. Anyway, the pigs had gotten in the cabin while we were in town and had tipped over that icebox and of course, he was in town drinking and by the time that he got up there, I don't know how many days it was, and the cabin was pretty stinky. Well we'll just go up and live at the mill for the summer and let it air out, then clean it up and so we did. It didn't hurt the pigs.

Ellen: He was a real easy going guy wasn't he?

Lyle: He was very easy going unless a horse scared me. One time a horse ran away with me and he was not happy at all. I kept saying, "I want to get off, I want

to get off!" and he said, "So do I sis." But she had taken off running and when he got her stopped and I got off he took a pretty good sized limb to her. But no, he didn't have a temper. He really didn't. He didn't have a temper did he?

Carol: Oh yeah. He could get angry once in a while.

Lyle: Well angry but did he have a temper? He never hit any of us. We never n-e-v-e-r had a spanking.

Carol: I remember one time when he had given me about a two year old horse unbroken and I had ridden it all summer up to Horseshoe Park where we were skidding timber. I don't think you were there that summer. It was Naomi and I and there was my father and my grandfather and then sometimes I would stay at the cabin and take care of my little half-sister who was probably six months old. I would take care of her all day and it was the summer I turned fourteen it think, no thirteen. Then some of the days I would ride the horse up to Horseshoe and I would keep up with the trucks cause it was so rough going. I would skid timber with the workhorse and where was I going with that story?

Lyle: I don't know but I didn't work with the horses. I was terrified of them.

Ellen: Why were you terrified of horses?

Lyle: Daddy just always had those ol' workhorses that would run away with ya' and because I've always about horses or cows. I want them on the other side of the fence. I didn't ever have any bad experiences. We got bucked off occasionally but everybody did. I was just afraid of em'. I still am.

Carol: Yea, she has a healthy fear of them.

Lyle: I'll tell you how afraid of horses I am. This one summer it was probably late in August, Daddy had told us for years "I'll take you fishin'". Well we never had time, we were always gardening or else they were timbering and if they were timbering. I couldn't skid because I didn't want a horse that close to me and I didn't want to ride a horse. So he was going to take us fishing up to Chimney, I think its called Chimney. There was Carol, Earl, and me, Glen, Naomi, and Daddy and I took a loaf of bread, a one pound loaf of Wonder Bread. I carried it all the way up. I don't know why, I guess I thought I was going to starve to death but I carried that. They rode horses and they wanted me to ride. I said, "No, I can keep up. I'm not ridin' a horse." So we got up there and it started to rain and it rained and it rained and it rained. Glen and I found a little fawn deer and we could see the fish weren't gonna bite so we better come back. Earl had the deer, called it Dainty. We started back and he took off down the trail. Glen said that we'll take the shortcut, anyway we started on this shortcut and we were lost right away. I had flashlight and a bandana handkerchief. Glen had a rifle and no socks; no I don't even know nobody had even no underclothes on. He didn't have



a tee-shirt so he had a shirt and a pair of jeans and that rifle. We kept coming around to this same place. We must have come around to that thing three times. I kept pointing—I wanted to go home. Which I thought I was pointing toward the Baldy Mountain [the wrong direction]. Glen was determined not to upset me. I must have been a rotten person. [Everyone giggles] Finally, he just...well I laid down under a tree finally, I was freezing. I wanted to take a little nap. Glen came over and told me to get up. I said, “No, I’m sleepy. I’m going to sleep for a while.” He kicked me with his boot on the side of my leg. He said, “You’re goin’ to die right here.” And so we took off the way he wanted to go all along. The way that I wouldn’t and we came down to close down to the mouth of Brownies and Daddy had a big bomb fire and they were just goin’ to Dry Fork and get a search party out.

Carol: Glen had laid the gun down. He had the rifle and he had laid it down somewhere.

Lyle: Yea, on that three times around. And we never came back after it.

Carol: They never found it. That same trip, when these guys left I was riding horseback and just got so cold and I remember crying and it was either my Dad or Granddad lifted me off the horse and my clothes were frozen all the way around. I remember they plopped me down on the trail and said, “Get walkin’”. And I thought they are so mean because it was a river going down the train. I probably, like Lyle, didn’t have socks on. It was a cold, cold trip. That was our one fishing trip and that was our only fishing trip ever. Well we were busy. Daddy just did everything. Oh! I forgot to tell you.

Ellen: How often did you dad come to town.

Lyle: Not very often, He didn’t come often. He was too busy. I don’t know though cause we didn’t get to stay up there the whole year. He was a procrastinator, actually what he did it wasn’t so much that he was a pro—yea he was a procrastinator and he built air castles. Have you ever built an air castle? Well this year since we made \$700 dollars, next year well do seven acres and we’ll make a fortune? Then he would sit with a little stubby pencil and he would figure how many logs they needed to get out to become really wealthy, doing wood and mine props. Potatoes, we raised carrots one year, we had tons of carrots. He sold em’ oh yea a penny a piece. But as soon as one thing would fail he’d build another air castle.

Carol: I have tell you that back then the stores, the local stores, could buy produce that local people raised to sell. They can’t do it now. Back then they could.

Lyle: He also sold Christmas trees. You have to know that he got hundreds of Christmas trees off that little sixty-six acres in Dry Fork.

Ellen: Would he load them up and bring them to town?

Lyle: No, he took em' off the forest.

Ellen: Well, I know but...

Lyle: He didn't get em' off his property.

Ellen: Well but you said he sold them, he cut them and brought them where?

Lyle: To town. And he sold them all and they were in demand. But somebody said to him one time, "Arthur, I can't believe how many trees you've gotten off that acreage up there."

Ellen: And he never said a word.

Lyle: O people knew, he had Glen Lambert was the forest ranger and Fred Reynolds was the game warden. We were there at the cabin by ourselves. We knew back then if a car came they were coming to see us. They weren't going anywhere else. You know how we kept of meat don't you?

Ellen: No.

Lyle: My goodness. On a deer, we always had venison. He quartered it up and put it in a meat sack and you put it in your bed.

Carol: He would hang it out every night to get cold and then during the day we would put it to bed to help keep it cold.

Lyle: It kept it fine. We never had any meat spoil.

Carol: Then it was our job, the kid's job, if anyone came like the forest service or someone our job was to sit on the meat.

Lyle: And this day when we heard that car and we knew we had this meat. I think Glen said, "We better get that meat moved up to the side of the mountain." So we grabbed all that meat out of the bed and whipped up over on the south side, upon the side of that hill and buried it under leaves and stuff. We got back down to the cabin and here came I can't remember whether it was Fred or Glen, it had to be Fred and he said, "Girl, did you get the meat all hidden away?"

Everyone giggles

Ellen: It's like the thing with Josie.

Lyle: He was, "what did you say about Daddy on your notes?"

Carol: We were very poor but we didn't know we were poor.

Lyle: That was another thing that he said. He had this theory, Have you ever had fried cereal? Fried Germaide?

Ellen: I've had fried mush. My mother used to make fried mush. We would have cereal left over in the morning and then we would slice it up. I loved it.

Lyle: It was so good. Daddy would say he wasn't like he didn't say "Well, you poor little things all we have for supper is fried Germade" He'd say, "If we have some left from breakfast, we can fry it for supper." He was so positive thinking.

Carol: I've got his old ledger and it's mouse chewed and stained and any way one his last entries in it that he had planted so many Chokecherry bushes, it was in the hundreds and then in parentheses he had put "One More Dream".

Lyle: Another air castle.

Carol: Yea he was gonna sell Chokecherries.

Lyle: We would think every year with school getting ready to start that he would sell enough produce or timber that we'd have money for school clothes. He never did. It never happened. We never did. So, we would work in town.

Ellen: So, what kind of jobs did you do?

Lyle: Well, I babysat, I walked a little stupid dog for Mrs. Botsford that had a purple, green and yellow sweater. I had to walk that down by the tabernacle with the kids coming home. His name was Butchy Boy. She let him... When I cleaned house for her besides walking her dog and when I went to wash the frying pan, when I was doing the dishes she said, "O you don't wash that, you just let Butchy Boy clean it out." That's what she did. As I recall it seemed like she had a wooden leg but I cannot remember for sure if she did or not. So I worked for her. I served food in the seventh grade in the lunchroom. I did that. Then I worked for Aunt Jessie at the Auto-Court, Utah Auto Court. The Utah Auto Court was across from library.

Carol: It still is a motel there but back in those days it looked a lot different. It was called the Utah Auto Court.

Ellen: Was it where the Motel Utah was?

Carol: No, just to the left or the east of it.

Lyle: It was about across from the Doughboy wasn't it?

Carol: Yea, yea.

Lyle: South of the Doughboy?

Carol: Well, I remember when the Doughboy was right in the middle of town.

Lyle: But that motel had twenty-three cabins but I not sure he added thirteen so may have only had twenty-two. Later on they did a lower court. Fran Feltch, it belonged to Fran Feltch. (Vernal Express 1945-02-01) Ralph Preece and Charles James both worked there for Fran. Cause Aunt Jessie's husband had died and then she moved up there. Any way that is off from the other.

Ellen: That is some history of town.

Lyle: So I worked there and I went to live with Aunt Jessie but I lived there a lot of years. I don't remember how many I worked in the motel. We hung the sheets out on the line and they froze dry. We did that.

Ellen: Aren't we blessed.

Lyle: Yes. What do our kids know now?

Carol: Yea, they don't realize how blessed we are.

Lyle: Daddy would bring potatoes down for people in town, he would bring em' down to people that took care of us. He didn't have any money. But one day I caught him in town, when we lived with Jennie when we were in the first, we started out there in the first grade Naomi and I did. I started in Central and one day Jennie was telling Tiny that she was her mother. So Glen and I got her and we said, "Jennie is not our mother. Our mother is dead and in heaven." Jennie caught us and that is the only time that I got a whippin'. I got a whipping on that. I think I was in first grade. She wanted to be Tiny's mother. She was a sick woman. Anyway, we got sent off Glen and I got sent off to Jensen to go with Aunt Jessie and Uncle Fred had already died. And then Jennie, I think we had such a good time down there that the next year she had us back. She wouldn't let us stay down in Jensen anymore. Jennie was a funny lady.

Ellen: Well, you know why, later on in [your] life.

Lyle: Because drink didn't settle well with her obviously.

Carol: I remembered why I was telling you about going up to Horseshoe. It reminded me of another story about we were talking about horses and it was the next year that little horse got away from my Dad. He was ridin' em' and he ran

away with him and went through the creeks on a dead run and never fell. Anyway finally I guess he dumped my Dad and Dad came back. He said, "Well, we've got to go find him." And so we got on Dusky, which was Glen's horse, and this was I think a day or two later. But he got away with the saddle. So we started riding. Dad said, "I'll bet ya he's over on Sinks Ridge" because that's where the wild bunch hung out. So we rode upon Sinks Ridge and we got up there and sure enough there they were. They started running, Dusky started running and Dusky fell. It really hurt my leg. So Dad said, "Can you get back to the truck?" I said, "Yah, I think so." So he said, "All right, I'm gonna keep after em'." So I got back to the truck, limped down off from the mountain and got in the truck. I waited all day long for him. I was getting scared cause it was getting night and I was terrified of the dark. I remember thinking well I can drive this truck, well I couldn't, I could turn the key and get it chuggin' and I knew enough I think to, no I didn't put the clutch in I think just the brake. So every time I'd start it, it'd jump backwards. Well I got so that it was almost in the creek and I finally stopped doing that. I don't remember what time it was when he got there but it was late at night and I was so relieved to see him and he was relieved to see me but he had chased that horse clear over on Sawtooth and he finally did get him. He took him back down to the ranch and unsaddled him and then he came for me. [Then Carol giggles again.] We had the darnedest experiences up there didn't we?

Lyle: We hadn't heard this until a few years ago. Earl told us the he was a trapper. Daddy was. And he was a timber man, a trapper, a farmer, a rancher, all those things. He actually trapped with Archie Johnson, with the old President Archie Johnson and he went to do his traps and they were gone. Someone had taken em'. Do you remember this story? Tell it to her.

Carol: Well his traps were gone and he could follow this sign and so he followed who had ever taken the traps. He followed em' clear over on to Mosby Mountain. He got over there and he walked into a, I don't know if it was a cow camp, no it was deer hunters I think. He said it was deer hunters and it was quite a few men. He just walked into that camp and he said, "I want the son of a bitch that took my traps." This guy stepped forward and he said, "I'm sorry Scotty, I'm that S of a B, I didn't know they were yours." He got them and gave them to Grandpa. Anyway, Oh he was tough. He was mean when he had to be. When he got back, I don't know if it was Dad or...

Lyle: It was your Dad that said it.

Carol: My Dad said to him, "Dad, how did you dare go into that camp with all those men?" He said, "Son, remember one thing 'When you're right don't ever be afraid.'" But isn't that funny because he was a little bit crooked himself.

Carol and Lyle really giggle at this time.

Ellen: Tell me about these pictures.

1. This is grandmother, the Vernal people call her Mother Massey. Cyntha Francis Gerald Massey. This is Daddy's mother.

Ellen:

Carol: When you have time we can tell you a story about her. Well many stories but how she come to be in country.

2. These two men, Uncle Swell and Uncle Everett are the ones that had the mill together before Daddy took it over.

Ellen: And this is their wives?

Lyle: No, this is Aunt Hazel Gurr.

Carol: She was a sister.

Lyle: This is Grandmother. So that's the main one.





Most all of the rest of them are brothers.  
Ira, George, Arthur, Ira, and Johnny



Bud, Dell, Ira, Roy and Arthur

Arthur, Van George and Ira Massey







Everett, Dell, Betty and Ira



Everett, Dell, Betty, Ira and Forest  
Child is unidentified

Cynthia at the ranch.





Carol: These most almost all of tem are brothers and sisters. The children from the marriage of John D. and Cynthia Massey.

Cynthia John D

Merle

Arthur

Thelma, Hazel, Everett, Opal Ruby

Opal and Ruby were children of Ira Massey

Carol: Do you want to hear real quick a story on how she came to this country?

Ellen: Sure!

Carol: They started out in West Virginia and I used to know the dates but it



would have been right during the Civil War or right before. He father was a very wealthy man in those days, a plantation owner, and he had all ready set all of his slaves free but they all stayed on the plantation and they all worked together, John D. came courtin' Cynthia and they of course had chaperones and they were both very young and he came to see her and tell her good-bye cause he was goin' to the war. She was babysitting and he got there and she pulled one of the babies up on her lap while she was talking to him. I hiked her skirt up and showed her ankle. He left and went to the war and didn't ever write her. He comes home, I don't know how long he was gone, he comes home and they finally get back together, likin' each other and finally he tell her, "I thought you

were bein' loose." And so they decided they were going to get married. Grandmother was thirteen or fourteen and in the meantime and her father had passed away. So it was just her and her mother and her sister, Aunt Ett. So they get married and their first night, she had always slept with her mother and her mother had always said, "Don't ever sleep with a man." When it came time to go to bed she went to get in bed with her mother and her mother said, "You get upstairs to your husband." "But mother, you told me to..." "You go on up to your husband." So she got up there and she crawled between the mattress and the springs. This is where she slept all night until he threatened her in the early morning that if she did not get in bed he was going to leave her.

Lyle: They had fifteen children.

Carol: So they got together obviously. After she married John D. he had a brother, George Washington Massey and he had been to school and was very well educated. I think he was a widower. I don't know how it happened by Cynthia's mother really wanted Rosette to marry him. So they did. So it was brother marrying sisters. Then they heard the LDS religion and they were persecuted and so forth and they finally left West Virginia and settled in Manassa, Colorado. They had quite a few of their children there, both of the couples. They lived there at the same time that Jack Dempsey lived there. The boys spared with Jack Dempsey. We have pictures of em'. The when they left Manassa they ended up moving to just outside Heber, what is it called"

Lyle: Daniels?

Carol: Daniels and set up a home there and then they left from there and came to Dry Fork. George Washington, when they got to Dry Fork was very disillusioned with the church and everything and he left his family and he went back to West Virginia.

Lyle: That house that you see right next door to the Hatch boy. You know where the road is that goes to the Dry Fork Cemetery? The house next to that is George Washington Massey's old house. Beyond that is the Hatch, Lance and Heidi house. That is the Cecil Massey's people(George Washington Massey people)

Ellen: So there are two lines of Massey people here then?

Carol: A lot of them are double cousins. That's how they ended up here from West Virginia.

Lyle: They should have let you talk and talk up Dry Fork.

Carol: Well, I like that story. It's very interesting. That they were persecuted and that is one of the reasons they came west.

Note: Apparently Dry Fork people planned an evening to hear about Dry Fork History. Carol had planned and prepared to share some of the stories that are in this history. She also prepared a map of the Massey Ranch Area and a small portion of the Settlement Area. Her map contained green stickers that showed ownership of cabins in the 1940's and the pink stickers that show ownership of today. (2010)

Lyle: The cabin is 14 X 14 feet. Daddy's cabin is.

Ellen: Is it still in pretty good ship.

Lyle: The floor had kinda' raised up in the middle and so it's kinda....

Carol: But this is what amazed me, I had no idea that there were this many families living up there at that time. An so that was that was one of the reasons I took issue that they wouldn't let me speak because that is Dry Fork.

Lyle explains the cabin: The hooskow is on the left side of the photo. It was



where were lived. It was their bedroom, then the cabin, and then Glen's boarded up tent. Remember that we weren't there in the winter. And Glen is in this photo. In that cabin we had a double bed, a square table half this size, so about 3X3 ft., we had two chairs, maybe a log bench sometimes, we had a sideboard. We didn't have a closet, we didn't have a bookcase, we didn't have the shelf up over it

That Larry (Lyle's husband) has made now. Daddy and Mother and Glen and me and Naomi lived in that cabin. We were all fine. One night someone had been

fishing, this is when Winona was there, so then there wasn't mother. They had been fishing and had gotten really wet, rained on. So Winona got out of bed, cooked supper for em', it would have been venison and tatoes. And then bedded them down and they all stayed in the cabin. When we walked in this hoosgow you had to walk in bent over so you didn't hit your head. And this boarded up tent over her, Acel Rowley had brought us a coyote pup when we were kids. I know he brought on here for Levoy [Lyle's son]. Anyway someone had given us a coyote pup. This tent had a wooden floor and wooden walls and the old fashioned tarp, the canvas tarp. Then Glen had a rope tied around it so it was tight. When Scrapper [the coyote pup] was just a pup, we hadn't had him for very long, in the morning Glen let us sleep in that tent sometimes, Scrapper would crawl underneath that rope and come in there and bite our toes and wake us up. Daddy had a man up there working for him. As I recall his name was Nick Clark. We went to town and Nick wanted a bottle and he took that coyote pup and bountied it. He did! He did! He might have gotten \$10, enough for a bottle.

Ellen: It looks like there is a child in the barrel. Is there?

Lyle: No.

Carol: Look at this neat little rocking chair. I do willowing and I am dyeing to try and duplicate that. Isn't that cute.

Lyle: I used to say to Daddy, "What did mother look like?" He would say "Go look in the mirror." I said, "Well what did she look like?" And he would say, "Go look in the mirror." One day I was going out on the temple bus, 5:30 in the morning, you know you're really tired. I was sitting on the bus looking like I was still asleep. Mazie Sinfield said, you look just like Marguerite. We never had a picture of her. She wouldn't have her picture taken. Daddy had one and when she died he took it down to Mr. Thorne and Mr. Thorne lost it. All these years, I'd ask around to people "Did you go to school with Marguerite?" "Yea, but she didn't have her picture taken. When Rhoda and Lawrence moved over into that last place they lived, they went through those pictures and let everybody know, and one day she found that picture of mother.

Ellen: Do you have the negative?

Lyle: I have the picture.

Carol: It was just a picture.

Lyle: I don't think I have a negative. Why? Do you want it?

Ellen: Yes. One reason why I want it is because it is dangerous for you to have it.

Lyle: To have mother's picture?

Ellen: Not the picture. The material in the negative is dangerous. Those negatives before 1950 when Kodak started making the safety film, they are called Nitrate Negatives and they are explosive. They can explode if they get to hot.

Lyle: In fact, Mother had a Kodak camera; in fact, I think that Naomi might have still had that camera when she died.

Carol: Her mother used to load up their laundry at the ranch on a horse and ride one mile up towards Sawtooth where there's a little spring that comes out. She would haul her laundry up there to do it. Then haul it back down and hang it out.

Ellen: You have a lot of nice memories.

Carol: Oh we do, we really do. We are so blessed. We never knew we were poor.

Ellen: Everyone was poor in that period. Tell me how Randy fits in this family.

Carol: He is a half-brother to me. My father was married twice and Randy is from his second wife, there was Connie, Randy and Leah.

Lyle shows the picture of her mother from the front of a book that had been self made with stories and entries about her father.

Carol: That is in front of the natural bridge going up towards the cave.

Lyle: From the book: Glen tells the story of Daddy deciding to butcher a hog. He shot the hog once in the head with a 22 pistol but the hog just kept running in a circle. After the first shot the hog started leaning to one side. Every time the hog would go by Daddy would shot it in the head again, causing the hog to lean even further so that by the time the hog fell he was practically laying on his side running.



Ellen: Well we would love to have a copy of this book.

Lyle: I'd love for you to have it.

Ellen: This is the kind of stuff that we like to collect.

Lyle: This is from Mother's diary and this is just how faded out it was. I typed and everybody has one, don't they?

Carol: I think so.

Lyle: You have the one of Daddy's to, all these sayings. Mother was brilliant. She had a mind. You know the whole book of Hiawatha, she had that whole thing memorized, every word.

Ellen: Then she was very educated.

Lyle: No, she just had a mind like that. She said somewhere in her diary that it was sometimes a curse.

Carol: She must have been awfully good to my father cause he loved her dearly.

Lyle: Oh yes, they loved her. Delma and Earl's little mother was nineteen when she died.

Ellen: Oh!!!!!!

Carol: She is buried right up there in Dry Fork. I can go over and see her.

Lyle: This is the last word. Mother only wrote this little tiny bit, just those few months and I don't see, well October 31,  
"Oh so tired today, had to wash yesterday. Jennie had to insist upon bringing my bedding down and of course I couldn't let her do it, so I'm fagged today. We go home tomorrow, then I'll get to rest and sleep. Scotty is frantic with worry.

This is the last thing November 21, she didn't like company if she'd of had her way she'd have just closed the whole place in up there. This was when she was before she died, she died December, well Tiny was born December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and she lived a few days after that. No one came. But growing up we never thought any of that was sad. Naomi and I never did.

Carol: Well I read it and I just cry all the way through it anymore because I can read between the lines and how much she'd miss grandpa when he would leave and go to town.

Lyle: The ol' poop, him.

Carol: How much she loved him. She called him her short boy.

Lyle: One time in there she wrote, she said, "Dogs and pigs and Indians live in one room why oh why must I."

Carol: She talks about buying an oil cloth for her table and how thrilled she was. It had been a year or more, she had never had an oil cloth.

Lyle: Daddy wasn't a good provider. That was a really hard thing for me to accept. When someone asked me that one time, I bet you had a really hard life. I said, "No, I never did." I never did. I worked and paid for my own school clothes and I never did have a hard life. It took me until maybe the last couple of years before I realized that Daddy didn't provide. He just didn't provide.

Carol: I think that that was the norm after reading the Chew Bunch. I could see my grandmother with fifteen kids coming from West Virginia and the hardships that they went through. I just ahhh... think that that was more the norm for men.

Lyle: The Massey's were famous for working for themselves. They didn't work for somebody else. Course you can look at the cousins that do fencing, they made a good living but they worked hard. You know, even when I say that I can see that he wasn't a good provider, that is only partly true because we had a home, we were never hungry, never cold unless we went out hiking too far. So we had everything like that, but as far as providing a living for us, No he didn't. We had venison, tatoes' and in the summer we canned. What does it mean "provide" huh?

Ellen: Was he able to teach you how to can? Or did you have to experiment on your own?

Lyle: Uncle Johnny's son, Garth was married to a Betty and she was up in Earl and Betty's cabin one summer. She taught me to make bread when I was just a little kid. The canning probably came mostly from Aunt Thelma or Grandmother or Winona. Daddy taught me to work. Believe it or not Ellen, Daddy taught me to be honest. How about that? You couldn't have gotten me to take a penny for anything. He taught me to be honest. Right when I was watchin' him steal a sheep. Yeah! He taught me to be honest.

Ellen: You telling me these things about him doesn't diminish my thoughts about him. I thought he was a wonderful little old man. I just remember him and I just loved him right to death.

Lyle: Yes, he was a caution. One day Lou was gonna leave Phil when they lived over by you. She was gonna leave him. And course Daddy would go there to get coffee 'cause I wouldn't fix coffee here for him, after he had been to the temple and all, so Lou was all loaded up and ready to go. Daddy saw her and he just said a few words to her. I don't know what he said, "Have you thought about having a step-father or what." She unloaded that thing and never left again.

Ellen: They had their problems.

Carol: Who doesn't?

Lyle: Don't we have a perfect marriage?

Carol: No, the last time I looked.....

Ellen: Well, I'm going to shut the tape off.